

**DURHAM RECOVERY AND RENEWAL TASK FORCE
TASK FORCE VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM**

Friday, September 11, 2020

8:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.

MINUTES

Task Force Members

Steve Schewel, Mayor City of Durham
Wendy Jacobs, Chair, Durham County Board of Commissioners
Katie Galbraith, Task Force Co-Chair, President, Duke Regional Hospital
Maticia Sims, Task Force Co-Chair, Vice President and Corporate Controller, Blue Cross Blue Shield of NC
Ibukun Akinboyo, M.D., Assistant Professor, Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Duke Health
Susan Amey, CEO, Discover Durham
Ed Boyd, Chief Strategy Office, iNvictus
Dr. Herbert Reynolds Davis, Senior Pastor, Nehemiah Church
Lois DeLoatch, Executive Vice President, Self-Help
Geoff Durham, Durham Chamber of Commerce
George Habel, Vice President, Capitol Broadcasting Company
Philip Harewood, CEO, Lincoln Community Health Center
Rodney Jenkins, Health Director, Durham County Department of Public Health
Jodi Miller, Deputy County Manager, Durham County Government, representing the Emergency Operations Center
Pilar Rocha-Goldberg, President and CEO, El Centro Hispano
Anthony Nelson, Dean, North Carolina Central University School of Business
Nicole Thompson, CEO, Downtown Durham Inc

Call to Order

Co-Chair Katie Galbraith welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for a Moment of Reflection to honor the lives lost during the 9/11 attack. She also introduced “CC” Croxton as the newest member of the Task Force. Co-Chair Galbraith welcomed Mayor Steve Schewel and Chair Wendy Jacobs to share opening remarks and updates.

Priority Updates

Mayor Schewel announced the Community Engagement Roundtable requested a member be added to the Task Force that could speak to the COVID related issues faced by citizens daily – he was pleased that Member Croxton agreed to join the group.

Member Croxton who is the Organizing Director for the National Association with Alliance shared her background, experience and expressed her excitement for being on the Task Force. Commissioner Jacobs echoed her appreciation for Member Croxton and her involvement with the community. She announced the State was now following the Governors Orders to enter Phase 2.5 and noted a few changes to the Safer at Home Order. She stated the updated order allowed for civil enforcement for violators and allowed for an increase in mass gatherings. Commissioner Jacobs stated the State finalized the budget for the remainder of the CARES Act Funding which included no additional local funding. She continued to say \$440 million would be distributed in individuals checks in the amount of \$335 to select families.

Mayor Schewel also announced Durham Delivers was seeking a part-time person to support the work of the delivery to local neighborhoods.

Co-Chair Updates

Co-Chair Maticia Sims shared details about the first Education Roundtable which was held on September 3, 2020. She stated the discussion was around institutional safety of students and announced the next meeting would be held on October 1, 2020 at 4p.m.

Co-Chair Galbraith stated the National Eviction Moratorium was effective until the end of 2020 and information would be available in the briefing materials. She stated additional discussion was to pivot the focus on the economic crisis and how to focus on economic recovery. Co-Chair Galbraith asked Member Durham and Member Nelson to report on Economic Recovery monthly very similar to the Public Health Indicator report shared at the meetings.

Member Thompson shared an update on outdoor dining. She stated the program changed to ensure that it did not negatively impact businesses while encouraging people to visit downtown to shop and eat. With regards to outdoor dining, they were working with the City to completely close Parrish, Chapel Hill and Main Street – while keeping North and South Streets open for movement and parking. Member Thompson stated this attempt would begin from September 18 – December 18, 2020 from 5p.m. – 10p.m. with street closures beginning at 4:30p.m.

State Funding to Support Individuals Who Need to Quarantine Due to COVID-19 and Expanded Community Health Workers

Michelle Lyn discussed the support program and its intent – which was to provide quarantine support to families that lacked support with food, housing, transportation and medication delivery. She added this program would offer a one-time payment and shared that state research found that Durham, Vance and Granville counties had difficulty isolating patients. Ms. Lyn continued to say the intent was to get referrals to community-based organizations to help provide services to those in need. Member Rocha-Goldberg added El Centro hired four (4) Community Workers with the idea that health workers would contact families those families in need.

Commissioner Jacobs inquired about the one-time payment. Ms. Lyn responded an individual would receive \$400 and a family would receive \$800. She added it would be a direct payment and the person(s) would have to attest that they received no other means of income or support.

Commissioner Jacobs expressed her interest in seeing how the NC Cares 360 program would work and make sure the community partners were enrolled in the platform. She also asked was there a number or point of contact to be shared. Ms. Lyn stated El Centro, Project Access of Durham TRY, Community in Partnership and PEACH all had Community Workers in the Durham area available to assist.

Mayor Schewel thanked Ms. Lyn for being a leader and serving Durham's vulnerable population. He asked that the list of organizations be shared with Amber Wade and Ryan Smith so that it could be made available. Mayor Schewel also asked if a contact traced person would be placed in the system. Member Jenkins responded the Health Department was notified that this was all connected to the same system.

Update from Public Health

Co-Chair Galbraith shared the hospital stats which included the following:

- Seven (7) day hospital average was 30.5
- Hospitals were at a 90+ percent occupancy

She noted the hospitals were seeing improvements; however, the occupancy percentage was not expected to change much.

Member Jenkins provided the following update:

- As of September 10th – 41 cases, 240 active cases, 6,907 individuals discharged with care, 86 total deaths in Durham County
- We are at a total of 7235 since the pandemic began
- There were 13,722 total contacts through tracing efforts
- Seven (7) day leading average is at 28; which was a decrease from the previous week of 38
- No changes with race or demographics – 40 percent for LatinX, 35.24 percent for African Americans and 21.9 percent for Caucasians

Due to the increase in numbers in the 27704 area, he announced the CVS located at 5111 Wake Forest Road and Walgreens located on 200 N. LaSalle Street (both 27703 area code) were open as additional testing sites.

Member Akinboyo commented on the trends and stated there was a slight increase in the rates due to the Labor Day Holiday. She shared as we head into the Fall, to be mindful of the Flu Season and explained that extra efforts would need to be taken to keep our community safe.

Member DeLoatch questioned the mental health challenges in adults and children and the possibility of expanding and providing mental health services. Member Akinboyo responded there was an increase in anxiety and suicide and explained the access to virtual support services.

Mayor Schewel asked Member Harewood to share an update from Lincoln Community Health Center. Member Harewood stated there was a decrease in numbers; adding street signs were placed to advertise free testing.

Update from Cover Durham

Isaac Henrion shared background information on Cover Durham, the different phases of the project and notified the Task Force that over 20,000 adults and 10,000 children were provided face coverings by Cover Durham. He noted the project would end after this distribution which would bring the total to 75,000 coverings being provided to Durham residents. Mr. Henrion continued to say beyond distribution, the challenge was how to keep people wearing face coverings and continuing to address new issues as they arise.

Mayor Schewel stated in addition to the work done, he thanked Mr. Henrion for creating the culture for masking in Durham.

Commissioner Jacobs thanked Mr. Henrion and questioned how to sustain the culture. She asked was this something the Task Force needed to stay focused on as people were seen relaxing on the importance of face coverings. Ryan Smith stated Mr. Henrion agreed to assist a small team that would meet regularly to ensure the team focused and maintained the needs of the community.

Co-Chair Sims thanked Mr. Henrion for his leadership. Task Force Member Rocha-Goldberg also thanked Mr. Henrion for being inclusive and thoughtful to the Hispanic community.

Update from the RRTF Communication Team

Susan Amey shared the Back on the Bull Campaign presentation which highlighted the following: Campaign Goals and KPI's, Advertising Impressions, Unique Web Visitors, Pageviews, Most Trafficked Pages, Organic Outreach Timeline and Organic Outreach Examples. She also mentioned the Rediscover Durham Campaign which encouraged people to get out and rediscover local businesses. Ms. Amey stated this was a year-long campaign and notified the Task Force that Visit NC made funding available for the Co-Op which allowed the budget to be doubled for the campaign.

RRTF Budget Process Moving Forward

Co-Chair Sims stated she met with Mayor Schewel and Commissioner Jacobs to get proposals moving forward in a timely manner for the budget presentations. The following proposals were shared:

1. **Continued Language Access Services for RRTF:** extend contract for interpretation and translation services to support RRTF's work with immigrant and refugee populations, including organizing and leading more multi-lingual town halls. Cost: \$14,880
2. **Rental Assistance:** This proposal would work with nonprofit community agencies to provide rental assistance as necessary to prevent the individual or family from moving to an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation. The rental assistance provided would be a maximum of \$5,000 or 6 months of rent in arrears (including late fees), whichever is greater. Cost: \$500,000

3. **Pulse Oximetry:** COVID-19 Low-Cost Home Monitoring Program for High-Risk Patients. Many patients with COVID-19 disease have low oxygen levels even when they are feeling well. Low oxygen levels can be an early warning sign that medical intervention is needed. Pulse oximetry is the method that measures the percentage of blood hemoglobin carrying oxygen. The goal is to reduce the number of people in high-risk communities who wait too long to seek care and end up in the ER in much worse condition. We saw this often in the Latinx community this summer. Cost: \$300,000
4. **PPE Warehouse:** provide PPE kits for up to 1,000 Durham establishments over a 2-month period – Oct to Nov. Kits would include face masks for employees and customers, hand sanitizer, and, for certain industries, face shields. Duke Health would provide sourcing and warehouse space, and TROSA would provide staffing to distribute the supplies through at a pick-up site. Two key decision points will impact the cost of this proposal: (1) whether we provide employees with reusable cloth or disposable face masks, and (2) if cloth face masks, whether we source these locally or at the lowest cost for a quality product. Based on these decisions, the cost estimate for the PPE kits ranges from \$110,750 to \$386,375. We are awaiting an estimate for staffing the distribution.

Commissioner Jacobs inquired about resources at the State level for the pulse oximeters. Member Miller responded she was unaware of anything but would follow-up with Member Jenkins for additional research.

Mayor Schewel inquired about the process now that the budget requests were shared. Co-Chair Mims stated now that the proposals were made, the recommendations would be to vet the proposals and ensure they were aligned with the mission. Once that process was done, she hoped the Task Force could vote by email to get things moving forward.

Adjournment

Co-Chair Sims announced the next meeting was scheduled for September 25, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Monica W. Toomer
Durham County Clerk to the Board